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## Russians indicted, accused of 2016 election interference

BY SHARON LAFRANIERE  
New York Times

WASHINGTON  
The special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election charged 13 Russian nationals and three Russian organizations Friday with illegally trying to disrupt the U.S. political process,

including efforts designed to boost the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump and hurt that of his opponent, Hillary Clinton.  
The indictment represents the first charges by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, for meddling in the 2016 presidential election – the fundamental crime that he was assigned to investigate.

In a 37-page indictment filed in U.S. District Court, Mueller said the 13 individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate laws that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the United States.  
The indictment charges that the foreigners falsely posed as U.S. citizens, stole identities, and otherwise engaged in fraud

and deceit in an effort to influence the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential race.  
“The nature of the scheme was the defendants took extraordinary steps to make it appear that they were ordinary American political activists,” Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general overseeing Mueller's inquiry, said in a brief news conference Friday afternoon at the Justice Department.  
Rosenstein said repeatedly that the indictment does not allege that the Russian operation changed the outcome of the presidential election.  
Even though the Russians recruited and paid Americans to help them stage political rallies and promote political candidates, he said, the indictment

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## Racial IQ furor tests limits of free speech in schools

BY DIANA LAMBERT  
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When does freedom of speech cross the line on a school campus? As society grows ever more polarized and controversial statements quickly go viral on social media, school leaders are increasingly confronting the boundaries.  
A science fair project at McClatchy High School in Sacramento drew nationwide media attention last week when it attempted to link IQ and race to explain racial disparities in the campus' high-achieving program. The project was on display for two days before school officials removed it, saying that it had disrupted the learning environment.  
While students questioned why the project was allowed to remain for days despite complaints, some conservatives wondered if the student's free speech rights were violated when it was taken down.  
School district leaders in Sacramento County said that limiting speech within a campus environment has to be done on a case-by-case basis, but they overwhelmingly agreed the key test is whether it poses a threat to safety or disrupts the education of

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CAROLYN COLE LAT

Students gather Friday at memorial crosses in Parkland, Fla., to remember those killed and injured in the shooting Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The gunman, who is expected to plead guilty, was an expelled student from the school.

## FBI admits it failed to act on two warnings that could have halted Florida school shooter

BY JAY WEAVER, SARAH BLASKEY,  
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The FBI received two alarming tips about Nikolas Cruz in the past six months: Someone who knew him well believed he was capable of murdering teachers and students. And an online commenter using the handle “nikolas cruz” professed his desire to become a “professional school shooter.”  
But no one at the FBI connected the dots or shared informa-

tion about Cruz with the agents who might have stopped him before Wednesday, when he killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, Fla.  
The day following the massacre, the FBI said it had no way to trace the chilling online comment, flagged in September by a tipster in Mississippi, to south Florida.  
Then, in a shocking admission Friday, FBI Director Christopher Wray said the tip from the person close to Cruz — delivered in a Jan. 5 phone call to a bureau hotline — was never passed along to the FBI's field office in

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Miami, as official protocol required.  
The inability of federal law enforcement to identify Cruz exposes a disturbing lack of communication within the FBI, as well as a cursory initial inquiry that should have been pursued more aggressively, according to law enforcement sources and grieving survivors.

If the leads had been passed along to federal agents in south Florida, “they would have run them to ground and possibly prevented the school shootings,” said a law enforcement official who asked not to be identified discussing an ongoing investigation.  
A former federal agent agreed: “Absolutely, it would have made a difference. Even if they had just gone to interview him at his home, they could have confronted him about his guns and taken them away” because of his violent threats to school children.  
Cruz, 19, is the third person in Florida who had been on law enforcement's radar before embarking on a deadly killing spree, after Omar Mateen at Pulse nightclub in Orlando in 2016 and Esteban Santiago at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport last January.

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## MORE DETAILS OF ALLEGED AFFAIR

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